



An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

101 Main, P.O. Box 230, Scott City, KS 67871
620-872-5885 | www.weci.net

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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DISTRICT OFFICES

Garden City — 620-275-0261

2005 W. Fulton, P.O. Box 973
Garden City, KS 67846

Great Bend — 620-793-4223

200 10th St., P.O. Box 1446
Great Bend, KS 67530

Harper — 620-896-7090

906 Central, P.O. Box 247
Harper, KS 67058

Leoti — 620-375-2632

101 W. F St., P.O. Box 966
Leoti, KS 67861

Scott City-Main — 620-872-5885

101 S. Main St., P.O. Box 230
Scott City, KS 67871

Syracuse — 620-384-5171

206 N. Main, P.O. Box 1010
Syracuse, KS 67878

Tribune — 620-376-4231

310 Broadway, P.O. Box 490
Tribune, KS 67879

FROM THE MANAGER

Celebrating a Year of Success

Now that 2024 is in our rearview, I am proud to reflect on a year filled with remarkable accomplishments at Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. Through the unwavering support of our members, community partners and dedicated team, we've achieved milestones that underscore the strength and spirit of our cooperative.

One of the year's standout achievements was the success of our **2024 POWER THE PANTRY** campaign. With a goal to raise \$100,000 to support a dozen local food banks, we not only met but exceeded expectations, collecting an incredible **\$110,287 IN CASH AND FOOD DONATIONS**. This accomplishment reflects the generosity and commitment of our members, businesses and communities.

We also saw the launch of our **COMMUNITY SOLAR** program in January 2024, offering members a practical and cost-effective alternative to rooftop solar. The program has seen great success, and we're excited to announce

that the price has now **DECREASED TO JUST \$4 PER SHARE**, making renewable energy more accessible than ever. Members interested in learning more about this innovative program can find details on Page 12H.

I encourage everyone to look over our Year in Review, which showcases our many accomplishments from this incredible year. From community engagement to innovation in energy solutions, 2024 has been a testament to the power of working together!

Lastly, as we celebrate these achievements, we remain focused on the future and our mission of **DELIVERING ENERGY FOR LIFE**. Let's carry this momentum into 2025 as we continue to grow, innovate and empower the communities we proudly serve.



Bruce W. Mueller

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS THIS SPRING

Members of WEC will receive ballots by mail in March to vote for open seats on WEC's Board of Trustees. WEC's bylaws allow for two methods for trustee nominations: **NOMINATION BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE** and **NOMINATION BY PETITION OF A MEMBER**. Members can contact WEC to get the contact information for their fellow member who represents their district on the nominating committee. In addition, 25 or more members of WEC can nominate any member as a trustee candidate by petition. Nominations by petition must be received **BY MARCH 10**. Members interested in either method of nomination should contact Jim McVay, WEC's general counsel, at 620-793-4223 or jmccvay@weci.net to express their interest **BY FEB. 14**.

POWERFUL NUMBERS FROM 2024

Check out these numbers that powered us through 2024! We set another record with **\$110,287** in cash and can donations to **POWER THE PANTRY**, and we won not one, but **TWO**, NRECA Spotlight on Excellence Awards! These numbers prove we have a lot to be proud of as a member-owned cooperative here to serve you!

\$1.25 MILLION
IN CAPITAL CREDITS
were returned to eligible members from 1990, 1991 and 2023. Eligible members received checks (totaling \$25 or more) in December 2024. To celebrate, we shared pie with our members at our Holiday Open House!

WEC RECEIVED AN ACSI® SCORE OF
90 OUT OF 100
for member satisfaction, placing WEC in the top 15% of scores across the nation last year!



AT LEAST
399
INDIVIDUAL
CHARGING SESSIONS
WEC put southwest and central Kansas on the national EV map in 2022 by installing public charging stations in Garden City, Great Bend and Harper in 2023.



300+
MEMBERS ATTENDED
our Great Bend Chamber Business After Hours on June 19 at Dry Lake Brewing to "Tropic Like It's Hot!"



2 NRECA SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE AWARDS
Our member services team won two national NRECA Spotlight on Excellence silver awards in 2024 for our 75th anniversary celebration annual meeting held the year prior!



WEC SAW A
193%
 INCREASE
 in voter engagement
 among our membership in
 2024 following a transition
 to mail-in ballot voting for our
 trustee election process.

THANKS TO YOU, WE RAISED
\$110,287
 when combined with our \$50,000 donation
 in both cash and food donations to
 Power the Pantry.



76%
 CASH DONATIONS
 More than three-quarters of
 our total donation to Power
 the Pantry in 2024 came from
 monetary donations for a
 dozen local food banks.



LINE CREWS HOSTED
63
SAFETY
DEMOS
 educating the public, school-age children
 and critical first responders about safety
 around power lines.

\$14,000
 IN SCHOLARSHIPS
 were distributed to 14 outstanding high
 school seniors across WEC's service
 territory at our 2024 annual meeting.



1 KANSAS
BUSINESS AWARD
 WEC was selected as regional
 award winner in BUSINESS
 INNOVATION by the Kansas
 Department of Commerce
 for our efforts to promote
 electric vehicles and charging
 infrastructure in southwest
 and central Kansas.

WEC EMPLOYEES AND TRUSTEES SPONSORED
104 CHILDREN
 through Saint Francis Ministries' Christmas for Kids and also awarded a \$1,000 Sharing Success
 grant to fulfill additional wish lists for children in need across our service territory.



GRAND TOTAL
\$110,287



POWER
the
PANTRY
in 2024



your
impact

\$60,287

WE
pledged

\$50,000

\$110,287 in Donations Raised for 12 Food Banks

Thanks to the combined efforts of our members, businesses and community partners, the 2024 Power the Pantry campaign raised an incredible **\$110,287 IN CASH AND FOOD DONATIONS** for a dozen local food banks. Over the past decade, WEC has facilitated the collection of nearly **214 TONS OF FOOD DONATIONS** — an astounding **427,980 POUNDS** (\$1 = 1 pound)!

Every fall since 2014, Wheatland Electric has rallied communities across southwest and central Kansas to support local food banks through **CRAM THE VAN**, an annual food drive featuring community gatherings, school competitions and collection events. The program was named for its signature red passenger van, which played a prominent role transporting donations to food banks across WEC's service territory. In 2023, WEC shifted our efforts (and retired our van) to better meet the needs of community food banks by launching the Power the Pantry initiative, and **PLEDGING \$50,000** annually.

In 2024, we worked to **DOUBLE THE IMPACT** of our cash donation, with a goal of raising \$100,000 for the food banks serving as a safety net across the communities we serve.

Through an online fundraising campaign where donors were entered to win Chiefs/Broncos tickets, monetary donations from co-op members across our seven districts, a friendly school competition in Great Bend, a food drive partnership with students in Conway Springs, and our sixth annual Co-ops Care Charity Golf Tournament (held Sept. 6, 2024), we exceeded our \$100,000 goal and **RAISED A TOTAL OF \$110,287!**

As our campaign and the outpouring from our communities has grown, our focus has shifted to maximizing our impact through **CASH DONATIONS**, which are preferable

**Together, we're
 helping to ensure
 every family in
 our service area
 has access to the
 essential food
 resources they need.**



These monetary donations were delivered to the following food banks just before Thanksgiving:

- ▶ **CALDWELL**
United Methodist Food Pantry (\$3,167) and Caldwell Food Bank (\$5,762)
- ▶ **CONWAY SPRINGS**
Conway Springs Mission Mart (Cardinals Care partnership \$6,996) plus 1,517 food items
- ▶ **FINNEY COUNTY**
Emmaus House (\$6,007) and Genesis Family Health (\$5,667)
- ▶ **GREAT BEND**
Community Food Bank of Barton County (\$13,938), plus 7,365 lbs. of food
- ▶ **HARPER**
Harper Mission Mart (\$6,742)
- ▶ **HOLCOMB**
Horns for Hope - USD 363 (\$3,055)
- ▶ **LEOTI**
Wichita County Ministerial Alliance (\$6,937)
- ▶ **SCOTT CITY**
Hope's Closet/Ministerial Alliance (\$12,742)
- ▶ **SYRACUSE**
Hamilton County Food Pantry (\$6,594)
- ▶ **TRIBUNE**
Greeley County Food Bank (\$6,374)

to food items as they eliminate waste, reduce storage needs, and offer flexibility by allowing food banks to purchase perishable items such as meat and cheese, and provide vouchers to food bank patrons to use at local groceries.

In addition to the monetary donations, food items from our Great Bend Schools Competition sponsored by Gifting Forward (7,365 pounds) and Cardinals Care Challenge in Conway Springs (1,517 items) were delivered to area food banks. We also extend a special thanks to **TYSON FRESH MEATS**, which generously contributed \$17,500 worth of honey deli ham, providing high-quality, protein-rich meat for distribution to families in need.

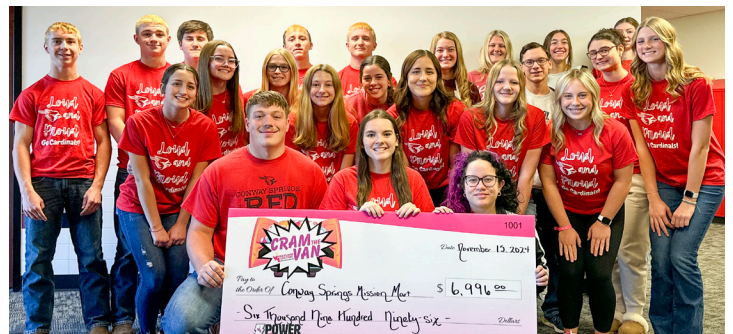
“We are thrilled to share that this year’s Power the Pantry campaign not only met but surpassed our goal, enabling us to make a meaningful difference for our local food banks,” shared Alli Conine, director of member services and corporate communications. “This success reflects the incredible generosity and unwavering support of our members, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this contribution possible.”

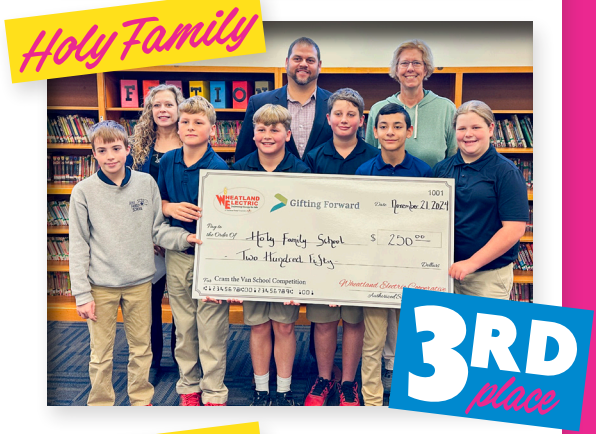
As we continue to embrace the **SEVENTH COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE: CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY**, we’re inspired by the outpouring of support from our members and partners. Together, we’re helping to ensure every family in our service area has access to the essential food resources they need.



We are thrilled to share that this year’s Power the Pantry campaign not only met but surpassed our goal, enabling us to make a meaningful difference for our local food banks.

ALLI CONINE, DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS





TOP 4 Great Bend Schools Win Cash Prizes in Cram the Van Competition

GREAT BEND SCHOOLS

joined forces with Wheatland Electric's annual Cram the Van food drive to collect



nearly 5 tons in cash and food donations (\$1 = 1 pound) to benefit the **COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OF BARTON COUNTY**. Students from 12 area schools participated in a friendly food drive competition, collecting the equivalent of **9,661 POUNDS** during November's competition.

Through the generosity of **GIFTING FORWARD**, a charitable foundation in Great Bend, \$1,500 in cash prizes were awarded to the top four schools based on the highest per-student contribution, recognizing the dedication of students who made an exceptional impact. All donations were delivered to the Community Food Bank of Barton County in Great Bend, ensuring vital support reaches local families just in time for the Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

With this year's contribution, the 10-year total collected through Cram the Van in Great Bend has reached an incredible 92,327 pounds — more than 46 tons of cash and non-perishable food items donated since the program's inception in 2014.

"This event empowers our local students to make a difference by supporting those in need, while teaching them the meaningful impact of small acts of kindness," said Alli Conine, director of member services and corporate communication for Wheatland Electric. "Through their efforts, they experience how every contribution, no matter the size, can profoundly affect the lives of others. All of this is made possible through the continued generosity and support of Gifting Forward."

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL celebrated a first-place victory in WEC's Cram the Van Schools Competition, collecting 15.06 pounds of food per student! Their efforts were rewarded with a \$600 cash prize from Gifting Forward.

CENTRAL KANSAS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY earned an impressive second-place finish, collecting 14.27 pounds of food per student and received a \$400 cash prize from Gifting Forward.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL proudly claimed third place, collecting an impressive 8 pounds of food per student! Their efforts earned a \$250 cash prize provided by Gifting Forward.

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL secured fourth place in WEC's Cram the Van Schools Competition, collecting 6.98 pounds of food per student earning a \$250 cash prize sponsored by Gifting Forward.

APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

JUNE 14-20, 2025

AN ALL-EXPENSES-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.



An all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by your local electric co-op.

A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world-class museums and meeting elected officials.

An opportunity to develop lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!

FIND OUT MORE



JULY 11-17, 2025

★★★ COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP ★★★

LEADERSHIP

Learn about the co-op business model and develop leadership skills.

COMMUNITY

Students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming create a candy co-op, run camp activities and make meaningful connections.

MEMORIES

From rafting on the Colorado River to exploring downtown Steamboat Springs — you'll be sure to capture memories to remember for a lifetime.



LEARN MORE



DEADLINE TO APPLY ONLINE IS JAN. 13, 2025, AT WWW.WECI.NET/YOUTH-TOUR-PROGRAM

Seniors: Apply Now for Scholarships!

Who is eligible to apply?

- > **GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS** planning to attend a college or trade school for the 2025-2026 school year.
- > **MUST ATTEND ONE OF 13 HIGH SCHOOLS** in Wheatland Electric's service territory:
 - Conway Springs
 - Argonia
 - South Haven
 - Deerfield
 - Caldwell
 - Syracuse
 - Great Bend
 - Holcomb
 - Wichita County
 - Greeley County
 - Norwich
 - Chaparral
 - Scott County

- > **ONE AT-LARGE SCHOLARSHIP** is also available for a senior who doesn't attend these schools but whose parent/legal guardian receives our electric service! Questions? memberservices@weci.net



Apply online by Jan. 13!



Scan the QR code or visit www.weci.net/scholarship-program

COMMUNITY SOLAR

A PROGRAM BROUGHT TO YOU BY



COMMUNITY SOLAR is dropping to

\$4 PER SHARE!

There's never been a better time to sign up! Enjoy all the benefits of solar energy without any of the headaches of rooftop solar!

Our subscription-based program allows residential members (homeowners or renters) to subscribe to shares — equivalent to 125 kilowatt hours or two solar panels — and receive an adjustment on their monthly bill.

As a solar subscriber, there's no change to your electric service. The only difference is that the energy generated on your behalf will be **100% RENEWABLE**. It's a win-win for your wallet and the planet!



**Shares are limited to no more than the average of your previous 12-month electric use. If your 12-month average is 1,000 kWh, then a max of 8 shares is allowed.*

ALREADY A SUBSCRIBER?

Your rate will automatically drop to \$4 per share beginning with your January billing.

HOW DO I SIGN-UP?

- ▶ Wheatland Electric members can subscribe on a first-come, first-served basis.
- ▶ New subscriptions will see a two-month bill delay.
- ▶ Contact your local office to calculate your allowed number of solar shares based on your 12-month average electric consumption.
- ▶ Members interested in participating can sign up by completing the **WHEATLAND COMMUNITY SOLAR SHARE AGREEMENT**.

**SHARES ARE LIMITED!
ACT SOON!**

CALL YOUR LOCAL WEC OFFICE

GARDEN CITY
620-275-0261

LEOTI
620-375-2632

GREAT BEND
620-793-4223

SCOTT CITY
620-872-5885

HARPER
620-896-7090

SYRACUSE
620-384-5171

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